

HB425: Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms

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Position: OPPOSE

Privately manufactured firearms are hardly ever used in crime; existing owners are law-abiding hobbyists not criminals. Thus, this is a feel-good Bill that does not address the real problem of firearm-related violence in Maryland, which is the lack of enforcement of existing code to prosecute violent offenders.

HB425 imposes heavy-handed and impractical requirements for gun hobbyists and gun owners exercising their 2nd Amendment rights. The requirements banning possession go far beyond federal law. They severely criminalize (3 year imprisonment) innocent possession by law-abiding hobbyists who may have built these firearms or possessed these frames for years, including all privately made guns built since 1968 (over 5 decades ago).

The bill creates a new overly broad definition of a "firearm" that goes beyond any federal definition of "firearm." That definition would be far stricter than any definition of firearm that would be imposed by the proposed ATF rule. It could include a simple block of metal, such as aluminum. HB425 imposes strict criminal liability for mere innocent possession of such common material.